

## WANT COURSE MADE SIMPLER

Teachers Tell of Confusing  
Effect on Young  
Children.

SAY MINDS ARE STUNTED

Children Make Slow Progress,  
and Are Eager to Leave  
School.

That it is the earnest view of many of the primary teachers that the course prescribed in the primary grades is too hard was brought out before the special committee on investigation of the public schools last night, the most convincing evidence yet presented being that of Miss Cornelia S. Taylor, a teacher of thirty-three years' experience, who expressed the opinion that the diversified course in the first few years tended to stunt the children's powers of concentration, the result being that the children make no visible progress, become dissatisfied and leave school at the earliest opportunity.

The session was long and at times very tedious, nearly all of the testimony being cumulative and all bearing on the first four years of school life.

**Miss Cahn Testifies.**  
Miss Cahn, a sister of Superintendent of Street Cleaning Henry Cahn, was the first witness. She teaches in the third year grades at Madison School, and was of opinion that the arithmetic course is too hard, the children being too small for that work. They came to her from the lower grades, she said, knowing practically nothing beyond the simplest addition. There was not sufficient time given for writing, though the time was sufficient for spelling, reading, history and geography, in her opinion. She thought all manual training should be omitted, since it did not tend to aid children to choose a vocation. She thought music of little value, and would abolish the physical exercises prescribed in the course.

Miss Cornelia S. Taylor, a teacher of the 1 A and 1 B grades at John Smith School, followed, reading from a prepared statement as to her experience. There was no period provided for spelling, and the writing was not properly supervised. The manual training, she considered the greatest brain strain in her grade. The children being supposed to make articles far beyond their capacity, and as a result become discouraged and either depend on the teacher for similar aid in all work or form a dislike to school work throughout. Present introduction, she said, was not of recent introduction, but the result of the gradual addition to the course during the past fifteen years, until the powers of concentration of the pupils had been stunted and the work is far below what it once was. The children being taught so many things that their minds become confused and they know nothing.

**Want Course Simplified.**  
She did not favor elimination of manual training from the schools, but its simplification and possible elimination from the primary grades. She did not object to brick physical exercises at intervals, but did object to games in the school room as giving a frivolous idea to the child of its day work in school.

Miss Cornelia Adair, a teacher in the third primary grade at Elm School, speaking for all of the teachers of her grade, who had held a meeting recently, protested against the arithmetic course as having examples too hard for children of that age. The time devoted to reading was sufficient, but the teachers attributed the poor writing to the great amount of desk work unsupervised. The spelling course was also held to be too hard, and too hard. The music course, it was contended, should be simplified and given less time. There was no objection to simple physical exercises, save that the time allotment was excessive. Manual training was held to be distasteful, demoralizing, confusing and discouraging to the children, resulting in a reaction on all other school work.

The committee rose to meet next Wednesday night.

**Suit Instituted.**  
Suit was instituted yesterday in the City Circuit Court by Thomas S. Winn & Co. against William P. Marshall for \$111.94.

## ROYAL BAKING POWDER

Absolutely Pure

The only Baking Powder made  
from Royal Grape Cream of Tartar  
NO ALUM, NO LIME PHOSPHATE

## SONS OF VETERANS ELECT OFFICERS

George H. Keesee Chosen Commander—Miss Bessie Massie Sponsor.

The annual election of officers last night was made the occasion of a jolly, informal smoker by R. E. Lee Camp, No. 1, Sons of Confederate Veterans, in Lee Hall. The meeting, which was well attended and enthusiastic, was the first of a series of meetings which the executive committee hopes to inaugurate in a membership campaign about to be undertaken. If the plans of the camp are carried out new life will be instilled into the organization and scores of the hundreds of sons of Confederate veterans who live in Richmond will be drawn into the enrollment of Lee Camp.

The following officers were elected last night: George H. Keesee, commander; George D. Morgan, first lieutenant; J. E. Lee, second lieutenant; L. M. Warren, secretary; Edwin P. Cox, treasurer; F. F. Rennie, chaplain, and Dr. Greer Baughman, surgeon. The executive committee is composed of the first five officers and the following: John B. Lightfoot, Jr., Dr. Virgil Harrison, T. Garnett Tabb, B. B. Morgan, E. A. Moseley, Thomas P. Bryan and R. P. Neal.

On resolution of the camp, the commander was empowered to appoint two delegates to represent R. E. Lee Camp, No. 1, at the reunion of the United Confederate Veterans to be held in Macon in May. Miss Bessie Massie was chosen as the sponsor for the camp at this reunion. Arrangements were also begun for the annual subscription banquet of the camp, and the whole matter was turned over to the executive committee. The banquet this year will outdo anything undertaken by the camp in the past. If the plans of the committee are fulfilled.

## BELTON PAID FROM CONTINGENT FUND

Commissioners Rescinded Their  
Action to Pay Salary  
From Fines.

The Board of Police Commissioners, at a special meeting last night, rescinded their former action in deciding to pay the added salary of a sergeant to Detective Peter Belton from fines imposed upon members of the department for violations of regulations. It was determined to pay the difference of the increase from a private to a sergeant from the board's contingent fund.

At a previous meeting the commissioners elected Belton a sergeant, and as the annual appropriation made by the City Council was not sufficient to pay the added salary it was decided to pay it out of the fines of officers.

When the payroll with Belton's increased salary was presented to Mayor Richardson, president of the board, for his approval, he refused to sign it. Not until the additional pay was deducted did he affix his signature.

The action of the Police Commissioners in agreeing to pay Belton from fines of officers has caused a great deal of comment, and in some circles was regarded as an indirect violation of the law. These fines, which formerly reverted to the City Treasury, have for the past few years been turned over to the Police Benevolent Association.

## JURY HUNG IN FOSTER TRIAL

Vote Said to Be 9 to 3 for  
Conviction of  
Preacher.

The second trial of Edmund Foster, the inspired Henrico preacher indicted for perversion of Ada Katherine Meeks, his girl ward, failed of definite issue yesterday when the foreman of the jury reported to Judge West, in the Henrico county Circuit Court, that the jury was hopelessly divided. This announcement was made after the jury had been deliberating for three hours and a half. The judge was subsequently told that the poll of the jury stood nine for conviction and three for acquittal. The former trial of Foster also resulted in a hung jury. The case will be brought up for the third time during the next session of court.

In the effort to hurry through the trial, the attorneys agreed Tuesday evening to submit the case to the jury without argument. The judge gave the jury half an hour in which to arrive at a decision, but failing to agree on a verdict in the allotted time, the jury was locked up in the Lexington Hotel for the night. When court convened yesterday morning, the jury immediately went into further deliberation, with the result already stated above.

The whole case seems to depend on the age of the girl, and the unfortunate circumstances of her birth makes the establishment of her exact age a very difficult matter. A dozen witnesses, determining whether she was born in 1898 or 1899, but none of them could give very reliable information. Ada Meeks was taken from the Children's Home of Virginia into the Foster home, where she was the object of forced seduction with the preacher. Foster vigorously denies the offenses charged against him, and as his wife is forced to testify in the case, the State is finding trouble in producing positive evidence.

## BREAKS IN LEVEES IN TWO NEW PLACES

Thoroughly soaked by the almost incessant rains which have fallen over the entire Southern Mississippi Valley for the past few days, levees along the great river were yesterday, with the exception of the Panther Forest and Dog Tail levees, holding with in its bounds the greatest volume of water heretofore recorded.

Reports from the government engineers in charge of the fourth levee district, extending from Vicksburg to the Gulf, are reassuring. At New Orleans, the 7 o'clock stage last night for the twelve hours' period. Water from the Panther Forest crevasse began to flood Lake Providence, La., yesterday. This must join the sea of water rushing through the Dog Tail break, which has already flooded a large section of Northern Louisiana, and will eventually inundate a large percentage of a territory 175 miles in length and from ten to sixty miles in breadth. The situation at Tallulah, La., is rapidly growing more serious. The little town will receive the combined force of the two floods. Water already covering nearly the entire town, those still remaining, especially the negroes, who have been driven from their homes, will suffer added hardships. Drinking water is running low and provisions for those unable to purchase them are all but exhausted.

## MISS FLETCHER WINS FORTUNE

Captain Cussons's Will to Stand.  
Estate Is Worth  
\$100,000.

The contest to break the will of the late Captain John Cussons, of Glen Allen, by which Miss Sarah Elizabeth Fletcher was made sole legatee of a fortune, and a score of other relatives disinherited, came to an abrupt and satisfactory conclusion yesterday afternoon in the Henrico County Circuit Court when Attorney Hill Carter, counsel for the contestants, threw up the night and accepted a compromise. Under the compromise, which is a virtual surrender of the struggle, and an admission of Captain Cussons's mental soundness, the jury will be ordered by Judge West this morning to return a verdict establishing this document as the last will and testament of the late John Cussons, and the costs of the litigation will be shared equally by the propounders and contestants.

Mr. Carter's action came very unexpectedly, his proposition for a compromise being made immediately after the court had adjourned for the day, and the jury sent to the hotel. The failure of several witnesses, produced by the contestants, to present unimpeachable evidence soon showed that the fight was practically lost, and the compromise was offered by Mr. Carter in order to save his clients as much expense as was possible. If the case had been allowed to run its natural course, and the jury had returned a verdict in favor of Miss Fletcher, the contestants would have had to bear the entire expense of the litigation.

A small army of witnesses, had been marshalled by the contestants in the effort to show mental unsoundness on the part of the testator at the time this will was drawn—April, 1907—and undue influence exerted on him by Miss Fletcher. The contestants folded signally in both lines of attack, Miss Fletcher only showing up the better for the attack made upon her, and Captain Cussons' questioned sanity receiving perfect vindication. Miss Fletcher, garbed in deep mourning, and carrying a small bouquet of flowers presented to her by her brother, Thomas Fletcher, made an affecting picture, and one that was not without influence upon the jury. She was the only woman in court during the day, and she sat quietly behind her attorneys, occasionally leaning forward to ask a question of them or to suggest some line of examination.

According to a peculiar clause of Captain Cussons's will, there has not been and never will be made any appraisal of his estate. The value of his personal and real property is known to be considerable, however, \$100,000 being the general estimate of his holdings. The major portion of his estate is represented in the \$1,000 acre of land at Glen Allen, with a hotel and numerous buildings, deer park and fish ponds. The extent of his personal property is a matter of speculation.

**Constant Companion.**  
When the will of Captain Cussons was read shortly after his death, it was found that Miss Sarah Elizabeth Fletcher had been made sole heir and executrix to the complete exclusion of all other relatives, whether at the request of Captain Cussons or on her own initiative. Miss Fletcher came to Virginia from England about fifteen years ago and took up her residence under her uncle's roof at Glen Allen. After the death of her uncle and various difficulties with other relatives had left the old soldier almost destitute of company, Miss Fletcher took charge of his household and became his constant companion. The debt brought by the disinherited relatives to break the will was of particular interest on account of the fact that for year before his death Captain Cussons was estranged from his family connections with the exception of Miss Fletcher.

The will, which is the subject of contest, was the only one found after the testator's death, and is presumed to be the last he wrote. It was drawn in April of 1907 by Eugene C. Mearns and witnessed by F. T. Sutton, Sr., and W. R. Massie. Miss Sarah Elizabeth Fletcher is the niece of Captain Cussons, late wife, who was a Miss Fletcher.

As the case was to be tried as an issue out of chancery, it required nearly an hour to impanel a jury yesterday morning, and another three-quarters of an hour for the statements of the contestants. Hill Carter and C. W. Saunders, representing the contestants, alleged undue influence and unsound mind at the time the will was drawn in petitioning for the breaking of the will. Judge George I. Christian and Samuel A. Sutton, who were counsel for Miss Fletcher, while Jesse F. West occupied the bench in the absence of Judge R. Carter Scott.

**Distinguished Witnesses.**  
In the effort to enumerate and enlarge upon the eccentricities of the grizzled old Confederate scout, an array of witnesses were summoned, all friends of the testator, and including in their number a notable collection of city figures. The witnesses included Lieutenant-Governor J. Taylor Ellyson, Mayor David C. Richardson, Former Mayor Carlton McCarthy, Major Frank C. Sutton, Polk Miller, E. V. Valentine, Dr. C. A. Bryce, Colonel Eugene C. Massie, John D. Murrell and Major W. D. Evans.

M. Y. Shepard, a nephew of Captain Cussons by marriage, took the stand as the star witness for the contestants, but his evidence was broken under a fire of questions from the attorneys, the judge and the jury. The jury, men of unusual intelligence and mind, took the cross-examination of the witness and bombarded Shepard with questions that would have done credit to the skilled criminal lawyer. A number of witnesses, who had been summoned, were not called because of the compromise effected.

**Negro Crushed by Log Wagon.**  
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Petersburg, Va., April 17.—Isaac Parham, colored, thirty-five years old, was brought to the Petersburg Hospital from Surry county to-night suffering a badly bruised head and the loss of an ear, crushed off when the wheel of a heavy log wagon passed over him. Parham fell from the wagon he was driving on the James River Road. His injuries were attended by Dr. W. P. Hoy. He will recover.

**Child Hit by Car.**  
Linwood Hill, four years old, was struck and slightly hurt yesterday afternoon shortly before 1 o'clock by a car on the Oakwood and Main division of the Virginia Railway and Power Company in Va. Street near May. The child was taken to the City Hospital, and taken to his home, 290 Pleasant Street.



**Looks Good—Tastes Good**

**Pabst Blue Ribbon**  
The Beer of Quality

**THE** waiter knows that he is serving a discriminating guest when ordered to bring Pabst "BLUE RIBBON" Beer.

This is the beverage beyond compare, and is appropriate for all times and occasions. Wholesome and refreshing—a delight to the eye and the palate—the perfection of brewing.

Bottled only at the brewery in crystal clear bottles, showing at a glance that it is clean and pure.

Serve it to your family and guests. Phone or write

**Pabst Brewing Company**  
308-314 Hancock St. Phone Madison 336  
Richmond, Va.

**GUNST THROWS HIS  
HAT IN THE RING**

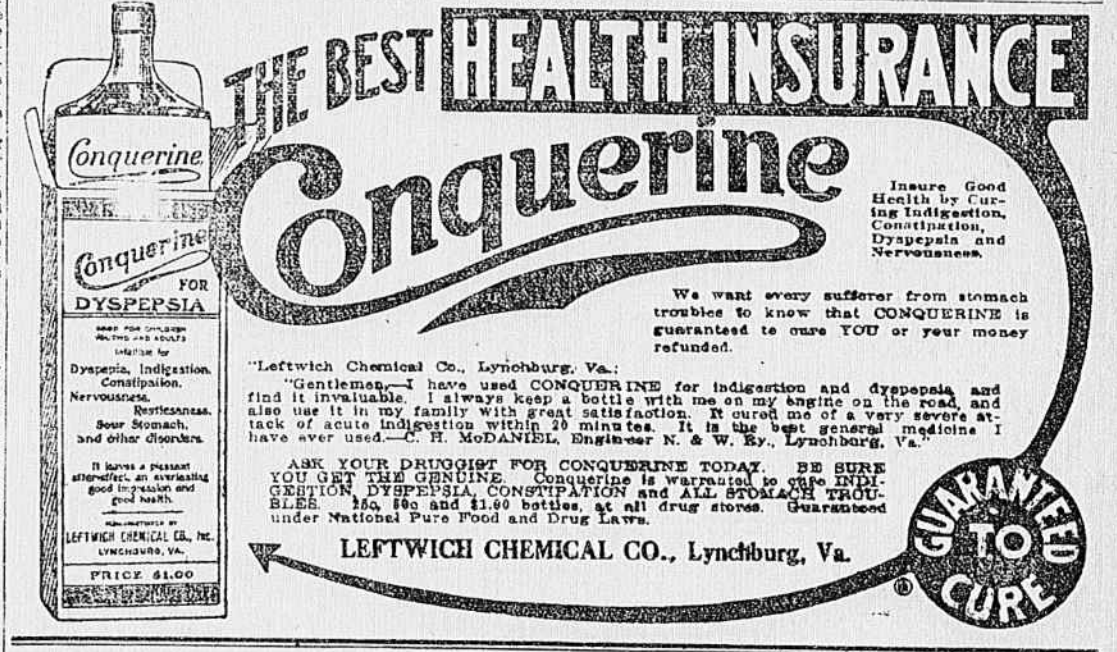
Announces Candidacy for Administrative Board, Running on His Record.

Formal announcement was made yesterday by Alderman Marx Gunst of his candidacy for the Administrative Board. Mr. Gunst has been considered a receptive candidate for some time, and his friends have been actively at work canvassing the voters of the city. He bases his claim on his record as a member of the City Council, to which he was first elected in 1904. Mr. Gunst has prepared for circulation during the campaign an extended statement of his part in important legislation dating from the Bell Telephone wrangles of 1904, and subsequent years, the reformation at the gas works, and the formation of the "Good Government League" in 1906, which was intended to cure the extravagance of the Council and force the city to live within its income.

Mr. Gunst offered the resolution which created the Committee on Electricity, and was for many years chairman of the Committee on Relief of the Poor. He served four terms in the Common Council from Monroe Ward, and in 1902 was elected to the Board of Aldermen, from which he resigned in 1909, on removing into Lee Ward. In 1910 he was re-elected from his new ward, defeating Alderman Ellett. Although for many years a member of the Street Committee, Mr. Gunst claims to have been opposed to the ward system of distribution of funds.

He presented a plan several years ago for simplifying the Government by reducing the size of the Council and having the members paid salaries, not taxes.

He supported the recent four-ward re-districting ordinance, and in the case of the Administrative Board supported the committee plan, which was adopted, rather than the more extensive substitute which would have included the Fire, Police and Health Departments. Mr. Gunst came into some prominence last year through his advocacy of a bond issue of \$1,000,000 for street work. The Finance Committee objected that the time was not suitable for marketing bonds, and Mr. Gunst did not press the proposition, but has given notice that it will be given as soon as the Administrative Board is in office. Mr. Gunst also opposed the unbusinesslike and impracticable method pursued in securing plans and bids for the new Mayo's Bridge, by which each contestant bid on his own plans, the city getting no real competition in price. He advocates the sale of all unproductive property, such as Seabrook Warehouse and Sparks Spring, from which the city now derives neither revenue nor taxes.



**THE BEST HEALTH INSURANCE**

**Conquerine**

Insure Good Health by Curing Indigestion, Constipation, Dyspepsia and Nervousness.

We want every sufferer from stomach troubles to know that CONQUERINE is guaranteed to cure YOU or your money refunded.

"Leftwich Chemical Co., Lynchburg, Va.:  
"Gentlemen, I have used CONQUERINE for indigestion and dyspepsia and find it invaluable. I always keep a bottle with me on my Angier or, I can say, and also use it in my family with great satisfaction. It cured me of a very severe attack of acute indigestion within 30 minutes. It is the best general medicine I have ever used.—E. H. MODAN, Engineer N. & W. Ry., Lynchburg, Va."

ASK YOUR DRUGGIST FOR CONQUERINE TODAY. BE SURE YOU GET THE GENUINE CONQUERINE. IT CURES INDIGESTION, DYSPEPSIA, CONSTIPATION AND ALL STOMACH TROUBLES. 25c, 50c and \$1.00 bottles, at all drug stores. Guaranteed under National Pure Food and Drug Laws.

**LEFTWICH CHEMICAL CO., Lynchburg, Va.**

PRICE \$1.00



**Your Girl  
Will Learn Fast**

Before you know it she'll be enlivening your evenings with "catchy" music, tuneful melodies that let "sunshine" into your life.

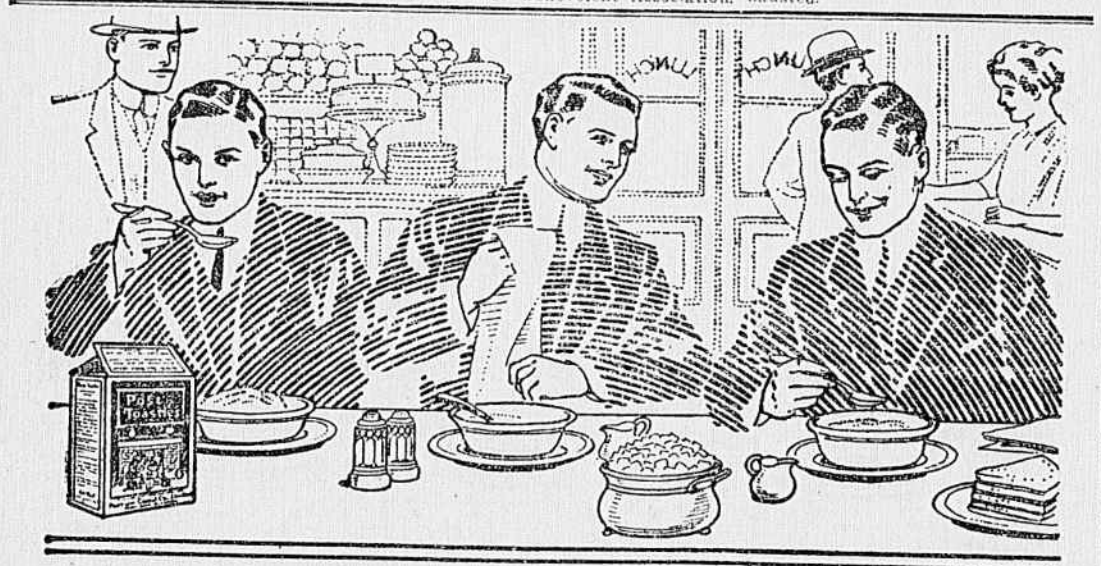
And she'll be popular. The musical girl always attracts friends—receiving all those little favors that mean everything in a girl's life.

**Stieff**  
PIANOS

**Just the Piano You Want—  
20% Under Price**

Yes, you save exactly one-fifth of the total cost by coming direct to the makers—simply because we save you the needless dealer-charges, such as extra profits, advertising bills, etc.

**E. G. RIKE, Mgr., 205 E. Broad St.**



## The Toasties Lunch

If you want a clear head—and to feel "fit as a lord" for the afternoon's work, cut out rich foods and join the big army of those who make

## Post Toasties

the principal dish for their lunch.

These golden-brown, crisped bits of corn are delicious, satisfying, and full of wholesome nourishment.

Most good eating places serve Post Toasties.

"The Memory Lingers"

Made by Postum Cereal Co., Ltd., Pure Food Factories, Battle Creek, Michigan.